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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Patent Application  
SN: 09/747,000  
Filed: 12-21-2000  
By: John D. Watts  
For: Threaded Pipe Connection Method

Art Unit: 3644  
Examiner: Trinh T. Nguyen

**RESPONSE TO REOPENED PROSECUTION PAPER MAILED 10-21-2003**

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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NOV 25 2003

**GROUP 3600**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 1.

Please rewrite Claims 2 and 3 as follows:

Claim 2. (Twice amended) [The] A method for [of claim 1, further comprising] forming a box [by] within the end of a joint of pipe, comprising: machining [cutting] a counter bore [of predetermined length] within the end so as to provide a desired first inner configuration [within an end-length]; swaging outwardly, the first inner configuration to [have] become a desired second inner configuration [and a desired the] which simultaneously forms a resulting outer configuration having an outer diameter larger in dimension than the [original] pipe outer diameter; and then machining the swaged portion [end-length] to [effect] the desired final box dimensions such that the box thread maximum root diameter exceeds the pipe outer diameter.

Claim 3. (thrice amended) [The] A method for [of Claim 1 further comprising] forming a pin around the end of a joint of pipe, [by] comprising: machining [a predetermined] a portion [end-length] of the pipe end to a first outer configuration; swaging inwardly, the first outer configuration to become [have] a second outer configuration which simultaneously forms [and] a desired third inner configuration having an inner diameter of smaller dimension than the pipe inner diameter, and then machining the [end-length] pipe end to the desired final pin dimensions such that the pin thread minimum root diameter is less than the pipe inner diameter.

Please add new Claim 23 as replacement for cancelled Claim 1.

Claim 23. A threaded pipe connection comprising: the box of Claim 1 and the pin of claim 3.

**REMARKS:** Examiner has reopened prosecution in response to applicants Appeal Brief and has rejected all claims on new grounds. Claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2 and 3 have been amended as required by the examiner.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 USC 112, paragraph 2, (it is unclear what the terms "the critical area" and "the end of thread engagement" define --). Applicant requests that examiner read Page 2 lines 16-19 of the specification for definition of "critical area", an engineering term well known to those skilled in the art. Applicant believes that the term "the end of thread engagement" is also self